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## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA VISITS COASTAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER AND INAUGURATE CYCLONE SHELTER IN TEKNAF**

**DHAKA, MAY 28** --- Today Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Richard Greene, USAID Mission Director went on a one-day visit to a U.S. Government funded Coastal Crisis Management Center and inaugurate a Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelter-School. The Multi Purpose Cyclone Shelter School initiatives continue to strengthen the partnership between United States and Government of Bangladesh around humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts, as well as other areas of mutual cooperation. Ambassador Mozena and Minister Ameen distributed backpacks among students from local schools.

The Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelter and Coastal Crisis Management Center program is the most ambitious humanitarian assistance and disaster relief program underway in the Pacific, intended to act as a catalyst to a broader range of U.S. Government activities. The program not only provides the Government of Bangladesh with a viable disaster relief infrastructure, but also regional benefits in terms of security and resiliency.

The Coastal Crisis Management Center provides the Bangladesh Ministry of Home the ability to provide command, control, and care to the remotest and most at-risk communities along the coastal and riverine areas from the Indian to the Burmese borders.

Over 40 shelters have been built since 2008 in Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, and Rajshahi districts at a total cost of \$10 million. Each shelter can accommodate up to 1,200 people in the event of an emergency. When not needed as a shelter, each MPCS serves as a fully furnished three-room schoolhouse for 120 children. An additional 10 shelters were built in 2011, with up to 100 shelters planned for the future. The U.S. Government is also funding the Rural English initiative, which provides teacher training to English teachers serving cyclone shelter communities. In Cox's Bazaar and Teknaf, 28 English teachers serving four cyclone shelter communities are participating in the training.

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**GR/ 2012**

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